

IN NEED OF A SAVIOR

TITUS 3:1-3

FCF: The human condition for is that of needing a Savior.

Proposition: A careful assessment of our relationship to God, ourselves, and others will make clear the need of a Savior.

Objective: Evangelistic—the help everyone acknowledge their need of a Savior.

Introduction:

We tend to ignore the ugly side of our lives. We are careful to always put our best side forward. But God will not allow us to do this. If we are to ever know the saving work of the Lord, we must become aware of and acknowledge the ugly side of our lives. We must confess that we are sinners.

In encouraging healthy relationships in the Christian community, and the practice of humility, Paul reminds Titus and the friends on Crete of their past. It is of special interest that Paul uses the word “we” in this list of ugly things. This letter was written to a younger minister who was serving out a tough assignment on the Island of Crete. If this list of things were true of these two early Christian leaders, could they not be

true of us? To admit the truth of these words is simply to acknowledge how deeply we need a Savior.

Is not the thing that keeps most of us from being saved our reluctance to really admit that we need it? Our opinion of ourselves is too high. You are probably not as vain or exaggerated in your opinion of yourself as the famous ruler of Germany known as the Kaiser. His personal valet said of him, “He was a very vain man. Whenever he went to a christening, he wanted to be the baby. Whenever he went to a wedding, he wanted to be the bride. When he went to a funeral, he wanted to be the corpse.” He truly wanted to be the star of every show. There is a natural inclination toward vanity in each human heart, a deadly reluctance to admit that we really need a Savior.

Let’s consider these words of Paul. Remember this is God’s evaluation of your past. This is what He says about you. The evidence of your need of a Savior is overwhelming!

I. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD REVEALS THE NEED.

These words really point to the condition of the heart. The problem with our relationship with God begins in our heart.

- 1. Foolish—senseless when it come to God and spiritual things.**

Darkened might be a word we could use. We talk about God, use His name, but do we know Him? The truth is that we have no natural knowledge of God, nor do we want any.

- 2. Disobedient—Unpersuaded, doing our own thing.**
- 3. Deceived—led astray by the deceiver himself. Lost from the ways of God.**

II. YOUR PERSONAL BEHAVIOR REVEALS THE NEED.

Why do we do what we do? What controls our lives? We were created to serve God and to bring glory and pleasure to Him.

- 1. Enslaved by many different desires. God gave us the desires to enrich your life, but we have made them the master of our lives. We spend our day obeying our desires.**

The desire for food, sex, sleep, drugs, drink!

- 2. Enslaved by many different pleasures. Pleasures are good when kept in their proper place, but terrible masters for your life. What controls your schedule—your desire to serve God, or some pleasure-producing activity?**

III. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS REVEALS YOUR NEED.

1. Malice—a history of hurting people.

2. Envy—a history of seeking what others have.

No joy over the prosperity of others—only resentment.

I read about a study conducted by some dermatologist. It indicated that bald-headed men envy men with hair. It is hard for them to feel good about a man whose head is covered with wavy hair. I am now having opportunity to test this out since my hair has been thinning considerably over the last couple of years. I have always had a problem with people who can eat all the desserts they desire, especially ice cream, and never gain an pound, when I gain if I just think about it.

3. Hate—being hateful—treating others with disrespect, and cultivating attitudes of disrespect.

Dr. David Hubbard says of hate, “like a stubborn dog, hatred digs up every possible bone of contention, worries it with relish, parades it around in its snarling snout, and drops it messily on the carpet where it causes nothing but consternation. Love, on the other hand, like a prudent squirrel, hides the morsels of scandal in a secret place where the light of exposure never reaches it.”

Do you have your own “hate” list?

How did you treat your parents?

How did you treat your teachers?

How did you treat your siblings?

How did you treat those in authority over you?

How did you treat those who were different from you?