

## Psalm 67A

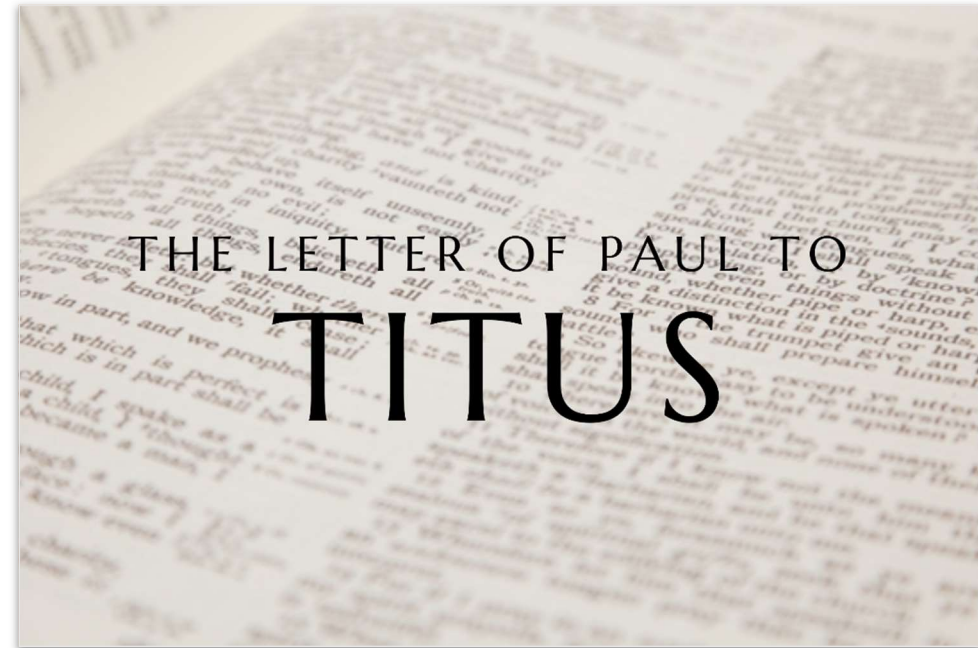
1. O God, give us Your blessing  
Extend to us Your grace,  
And cause to shine upon us  
The radiance of Your face;  
In order that Your pathways  
Would through the earth be known,  
That You to every nation  
Would Your salvation show.

2. O God, let peoples praise You;  
Let all the peoples praise.  
Let nations come rejoicing,  
And songs of gladness raise;  
For You will judge the peoples  
With perfect equity;  
You will for all earth's nations  
Their guide and leader be.

3. O God, let peoples praise You;  
Let all the peoples praise.  
The earth has brought its bounty  
Throughout its harvest days;  
Since God, our God, will bless us;  
Yes, God will blessing send,  
That all the earth may fear Him  
To its remotest end.

# Family Worship Booklet

22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023



God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law,  
day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy!

### **Doctrine for the Mind and Heart**

*Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q.64*

*What is required in the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honour, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Proof Texts: Romans 13:1, 7; Ephesians 5:21-22, 24;  
Ephesians 6:1, 4-5, 9; 1 Peter 2:17

### **Memory Verse of the Week**

Romans 13:1: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

### **Psalm of the Week**

Psalm 67A. The words are on page 8.

### **Please pray for:**

Mon – Pierre & Jocelyne Landry

Tues - Joel & Anneke, James, Everly & Silas Lendore

Wed - Katrina Marshall

Thur - Steve & Tiara, Titus, Leo & Pax Marshall

Frid - Kevin & Gwen, & Steven Mason

*Pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.*

### **Friday - Titus 3:1-3 - Who We Once Were.**

Yesterday, we were commanded to be good citizens and "speak evil of no one". You may have thought in your own mind, 'how can we not, have you seen the state of our country? There is nothing but greed, deceit, wickedness, and unbelief.' That is all very true, and being a good citizen doesn't mean we remain silent on these sins and attitudes in our nation. There are times when we must rebuke and bring sinners to Christ. But, at all times, we show love and grace towards all. Why, you may ask? Well, one reason is that we were once the very same.

Too often Christians forget what their own hearts were like before God changed them. When we remember who we once were, it should bring us to humility and give us a love for our fellow man. Whether we were religious hypocrites like Paul, relying upon our own self-righteousness, or walking by the wisdom of the world, all of us were once strangers to the Gospel. We are not any better than the world; the only difference is free, sovereign grace. Do you remember before your conversion? Were you not disobedient? Did you not lie? Steal? Did you ever have anger in your heart towards another? We were all disobedient; we all broke God's law.

And what was your love? What was your desire and passion? Was it sport? Shopping? Alcohol? Was your own family number 1 on your list? You see, we were the very same as the world around us, "slaves to various passions and pleasures".

When we see sin, wickedness, and unbelief in our community and nation, it should stir us to compassion. If it were not for the grace of God, we would be like them, still dead in our sin. So, the next time you see sinners, and arrogance and hate stir in your heart, think to what you once were – a sinner in need of Christ.

Q1. Why should we as Christians show love towards our neighbours?

### **Thursday - Titus 3:1-2 - Good Citizens.**

In chapter 2, we read of the glory of salvation in Jesus Christ and our blessed hope of eternal life. So, to make sure that the Christians of Crete do not become spiritual hermits, Paul reminds “them to be submissive to rulers and authorities”. Here Paul is referring to state governments; we are to be good citizens of our nations. Often, Christians have a tendency to separate themselves from society, but a Biblical Christian is one who shines forth as a light in their community.

Where the laws of the land do not contradict Scripture and cause one to sin, we are to obey our governments. In fact, all Christians should be model citizens. We are to be eager to do good in society; this can be done with charity work or by being involved in community projects. Christians are also to be gentle; we should have the reputation of one who is easy to approach because we are respectful and caring. This caring attitude is such that we hate all forms of racism, sexism, and bigotry. We show “perfect courtesy toward all people”, be they young or old, black or white, Western or Asian; for we “speak evil of no one”.

We see this attitude reflected throughout church history; where John Knox sought to build a school in every parish, American Presbyterians built hospitals for the poor, and William Wilberforce passionately fought against black slavery. In nations all across the world, Christians hold high positions of authority due to their reputation as honest, hard-working people. And on the street level, there are countless 'ordinary' saints who help and show love to others in their own community. We should all ask ourselves – are we separating ourselves from our society? Or are we, by the grace of God, obeying those over us and endeavouring to be good witnesses by being good citizens?

Q1. Why must Christians be reminded to obey authority?

Q2. Are there examples in your life where you show kindness to others?

---

### **Monday – Titus 2:9-10 - Advice for Servants.**

Paul now speaks to those who are slaves. When we read the word 'slave', we should not import early modern ideas into it. When we hear 'slave' we think of the black slave trade of the Americas, or the sex slaves of the western world. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, slavery was very different; sometimes it was more of a servant who worked, at other times it was one owned by a master for house-service. Remembering that there was no welfare state, many took refuge as slaves, so that rather than starve to death they could have a home, clothing, and food. This is not to defend slavery, but to understand the complex reality of slavery in Biblical times.

Such is the wisdom of God; He chooses the foolish things of this world to save. Often, the 'foolish' of this world is the lowest in society. Many slaves were saved by the Gospel, and now under Christ, Paul exhorts them to a godly life. As Christians, they were to work hard, not grumble and complain, and not be argumentative. This would be a witness to their masters, as they laboured to the glory of God.

This applies to us today in our employments. In one way or another, we are servants in the workplace. If we are true Christians, then we will be godly in all things, to “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour”. This means that when we have a 15 minute break, we do not take 20 minutes; we do not grumble under our breath when our boss give us tasks; and we do not have the attitude of refusing to work an extra five minutes unless we are paid overtime. The Christian sees work as a calling from God, and as such we turn up on time, work hard, endeavour to finish our tasks, and are known for our integrity in the workplace.

Q1. Why should slaves submit to their masters?

Q2. Do you see work as an opportunity to glorify God?

---

## **Tuesday - Titus 2:11-13 - Transforming Grace.**

These verses give such hope and comfort to the Christian. Often, we think 'how can I be a godly man or woman, there is so much sin and temptation'. The truth of the matter is that we do not live on our own strength; the good news is that the 'grace of God has appeared'. Grace saves us from our sins and guilty consciences, and grace is also given to live the Christian life.

The grace of God gives us the desire to kill sin. When free grace opens our eyes, we see the foolishness of all ungodliness. We abhor self-reliance, we reject the wisdom of men, and the things of this world become less attractive to us. As we grow in grace, we come to daily put sin to death, knowing how heinous, ugly, and dishonouring to God all sin is.

The grace of God gives us the desire to live holy lives. O how the new principles of grace touch our hearts; under darkness we saw the world as attractive; now the shining light of Christ gives our hearts a love for Christ and His ways. Grace gives us the discipline of self-control, so that we are firm in the faith at work and in the home. The law of God is something we desire to obey, so that we walk by the paths of uprightness. In fact, grace impacts every aspect of our lives to be as godly as possible in all that we say, think, and do.

This life of grace is not one of lethargy, but one of urgency. We know that Christ will come as a thief in the night, so we strive forth, 'waiting for the blessed hope' of our Lord's return. As we read in Titus 1:2, this is an assured hope. He will return; therefore, we value every day as an opportunity to serve the Lord in every aspect of our lives. How this should encourage us to go on in our Christian lives and shine forth as beacons of Christ in a dark and sin-filled world.

Q1. What does the word grace mean?

Q2. How does grace affect our daily lives?

---

## **Wednesday - Titus 2:11-15 - A Redeeming Christ.**

When we read of grace in the Bible, we should never think of grace as a thing. Grace is the unmerited favour of God towards sinners, and as we read in this section, grace is a He – the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace comes into our lives because Christ redeems us and applies His glorious benefits towards us in our justification, sanctification, adoption, and glorification. No wonder grace is irresistible! For it is nothing less than a saving sight of an irresistible and altogether lovely Christ.

We see here one of the Bible's explicit statements about Jesus, He is our “great God and Saviour”. He left the throne of heaven to come to this sinful world to redeem us. To redeem means to buy with a price, and the glory of salvation is that the price for our sin is invaluable. The Lord Christ “gave himself” for us. No one else but the God-man could die in our stead; His manhood for a substitutionary sacrifice, His deity for Calvary's infinite worth. There is no love in this world that can describe the love of God towards sinners.

We must also never think of salvation merely as 'getting saved'. Salvation includes the whole plan of redemption – from conversion to consummation. He saves us “to purify... a people... who are zealous for good works”. We are “his own possession”, and such is His love and grace that His desire is that we are purified from our sin towards holiness. This we demonstrate with new hearts of grace, with a zealous attitude towards pleasing our God with good works.

What a Lord we serve! Because of what He has done and is doing, we have the grace to press on and glorify God. He has redeemed us, and now we daily go forth with hearts of grace to perform good works, pleasing in the sight of God. No wonder Paul exhorts Titus to “Declare these things”. Who would not share such a glorious Christ to our friends and family?

Q1. What does it mean to redeem?

---