Chapter 3 Begins: Submission to Authorities (Titus 3:1-2)

- **The opening passage: Tit 3:1-2**
    - Paul starts chapter 3 with a first line succeeding from the last line of chapter 2 on purpose.
    - We see Paul going right into another mandate… be subject to rulers and authorities…
    - He tells Titus to act boldly in his authority given to him, and then instructs him to teach the Cretan believers to respect their authorities.
- **Submission to authority matters.**
    - It's what God wants. It's Godly behavior. It sets believers apart from worldly people.
    - Being subject to authority allows you to be ready for Good Deeds. (Rom 13:1-7)
    - Being properly oriented to authority is tied directly to having a clear conscience and to being "ready for every good deed."
    - There is only one instance where we are NOT to obey worldly authorities whom we are under: That is when they have rules or laws that are explicitly against or contrary to the word of God.
- **The practical instructions**.
    - Tit 3:1b "*to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men*."
    - To "malign" someone is to utter injuriously **misleading or false** reports about them - to defame or slander, exactly what the Cretan believers were prone to doing.
    - Paul instructs Titus to remind believers to submit to their government, be obedient, be proactive in doing good, and to be peaceable, considerate, and gentle toward all.

The Trustworthy Statement: Who We Now Are, and the Spirit "Poured Out Richly" (Titus 3:3-8)

- **A trustworthy statement:** (Tit 3:3-8)
    - What is a **trustworthy statement**?
        - When Paul says this, he is denoting something **very important** for you to believe. It can be compared to when Jesus would lead a passage with "**Truly, Truly**", again, denoting something very important for you to **believe**.
        - (Joh 5:19, 24; Joh 6:38,47; Joh 8:58)
    - This phrase Paul used only when instructing Titus and Timothy… it serves as a creed-like stamp of approval for essential biblical truths. We see also in:
        - (1Ti 1:15, 1Ti 3:1, 1Ti 4:6-9, 2Ti 2:10-11, Tit 3:8)
- **Who we once were: the pattern of the unbeliever**. (Tit 3:3)
    - Foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.
    - This directly was Paul's and Titus's own eyewitness description of the Cretan culture, generalized when Paul said "we also."
    - This wasn't the first time Paul expressed this. It wasn't only meant for Cretan believers, but for all believers:

- **The parallel with Ephesians 2** (Eph 2:1-7)
    - What we were, and who we now are:

Parallels		
Titus 3	Ephesians 2	
enslaved to various lusts and pleasures	**lived in** the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh	What we once were: pattern of the unbeliever
we were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived	we were dead in our transgressions	Our previous condition
The turning point…		
kindness of God our Savior and His **love** for mankind appeared… according to His **mercy**	But God, being rich in **mercy**, because of His great **love…** in **kindness** toward us	It's all based on who **God is**, not anything of us. It's Grace.

    - **Two** different regions, **two** different churches, **two** different sets of circumstances, but the same gospel and the same divine motive: **kindness, love, and mercy**. Paul reiterates this

- **Not on the basis of deeds done in righteousness.** (Tit 3:5)
    - Paul also has to say this because of the repeated mandate to engage in good deeds. But emphasizing these should be done as a result of being saved by grace… not the means!
    - It's easy to fall into the idea that your good deeds are lending to your salvation. We can earn nothing from God.
    - Isaiah puts it starkly: (Isa 64:6-9).
    - (Rom 3:21-24; Eph 2:8-10) Salvation is the free gift from God, through redemption, which means we were bought with a price. Not the other way around. We can never earn, or buy our salvation with good works.
    - Good deeds, then, are the fruit of grace, done because of what God has already done for us, because believers are to be Christ-like imitators of God and an example to others.
- **The washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, poured out richly.** (Tit 3:5b-6)
    - Our salvation, Paul reminds us, is by the Holy Spirit's regeneration and renewing, through Christ. Notice he references the Spirit being poured out. And, not just poured out, but poured out richly!
    - This expression is the capstone phrase of this passage.
    - This "pouring out" was foretold in the prophets. Paul knew the OT scriptures, and he didn't use this phrase by happenstance.
    - **"Pouring out"** in the OT always meant applying, bestowing or unleashing a great amount of something, to **cause a great change**. It was never meant as something small in amount or effect. It didn't always mean something good and often described God's wrath and judgment.
    - (Jer 44:6, Lam 2:4, 4:11, Eze 22:22, Eze 36:18, Nah 1:6, Dan 9:27)

- **But the same compelling, emphatic language is used for expression, God's grace and God's love:**
    - (2Ti 4:5-7, Mat 26:28, Mar 14:24, Luk 22:20, Rom 5:5)