The Spirit "Poured Out Richly" (Titus 3:5-8)

- **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.
    - We saw the weight behind Paul's phrase that the Holy Spirit was "poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior." The intent is that Paul chose this language deliberately, drawing on a deep Old Testament tradition where "pouring out" always signified something massive in scale and transformative in effect - never something small or incidental.
    - We traced this phrase across two broad categories:

- **First, it appears throughout the prophets in connection with God's wrath and judgment.**
    - 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.
    - (Jer 44:6) God's divine response to persistent disobedience and idolatry.
    - (Lam 2:4) This was God depicted as an enemy towards Jerusalem.
    - (Lam 4:11) This was the total destruction of Jerusalem, the consequence of persistent covenant violations, and because of the leaders and the priests. (Lam 4:12-13)
    - (Eze 20:34-37) There is an indication of restoration after a severe judgement from rebellion.
    - (Eze 22:22) This refers to a judgment where God compares the Israelites to impurities that must be refined.
    - (Eze 36:18) The pouring out of wrath here suggests a complete and overwhelming judgment for the presence of idols in the land.
    - (Nah 1:6) God's indignation is directed towards Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, known for its cruelty and idolatry.
    - (Dan 9:27) This is a complete destruction being poured out on the one who makes desolate.
    - As we can see, this term is not mild or innocuous by any means.

- **Secondly, the same compelling, emphatic language is used for deep expression, God's grace and God's love:**
    - "Pouring out" referred to the death of Paul: (2Ti 4:5-7)
    - It referred to the **blood of Christ**, and the **Eucharist**: (Remember: something bestowed in great amount, to cause great change): (Mat 26:28, Luk 22:20)
    - It referred to the Love of God: (Rom 5:5)

- **The Spirit's outpouring was foretold throughout the Old Testament.**
    - (Pro 1:23) The coming wisdom and reproof from the Spirit .
    - (Eze 39:28-29) This "pouring out" was for the **restoration** of the nation of Israel.
    - (Isa 32:15-16) This "pouring out" was referring to a future prophecy of the Spirit transforming the wilderness.
    - (Isa 44:1-5) This "pouring out" was for the chosen people and nation, for restoration.
    - (Zec 12:10) This "pouring out" of the Spirit was foretold of Christ's coming, and our new access to God through the gift of prayer.

- (Joe 2:27-29) Most explicitly, Joel's promise that the Spirit would be poured out "on ALL mankind," foretelling the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all believers.

- **Paul's intended impact**
  - Now we have a better understanding of what this term "poured out" really means. Paul was trying to convey the magnitude of the gift of the Spirit to the church.
  - We see Paul referring in our passage in Titus that the Spirit is not only poured out upon us, but poured out "richly", denoting God's generosity in grace to the body of Christ.

- **What "richly" means for us:**
  - Washing, regeneration, renewing of the Spirit (Tit 3:5-6).
  - We are given power by the Spirit when Christ ascended: (Act 1:8-9).
  - We are baptized with the Spirit into Christ, a Spiritual baptism (Mat 3:11; 1Co 12:13).
  - The indwelling Helper and Teacher, given by the Father (Joh 14:26).
  - The Spirit is the seal of our salvation (one of the greatest things!): (Eph 1:13).
  - The source of spiritual gifts for the common good (1Co 12:7).
  - Living water springing up to eternal life (Joh 4:7-14; Joh 7:37-39).
  - We are now getting a better picture of why so many passages throughout the bible refer to the Spirit as being "poured out".
  - Paul was not using casual language.
    - Notice the key words used throughout:
      - Washing
      - Regeneration
      - Renewing
      - Baptism
      - Living Water
      - Power
      - Helper
      - Teacher
      - Promise from God
      - The SEAL of our SALVATION!
      - Manifestation, our Spiritual gifts
    - The same God whose outpouring once shook nations in judgment has, through Christ, directed that same overwhelming force toward grace… generously and without reserve.
    - I think we can agree with Paul now, and know what it means for Him being poured out richly! It shows the manifold, multi-faceted grace of God in the gift that is the Spirit. What do we do with such a generous, wonderful gift?
    - The fitting response is from Peter: (1Pe 4:10) "*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*"