



Titus 3:1-8

**JESUS, JESHUA, SOTER,  
SAVIOR**

# Jesus and Peter on the Sea



- Peter was a good swimmer but he was over matched by the waves.
- “Lord, save me!” he cried.
- Christ immediately rescued him.

# Titus 3:1-3

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

# Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy. He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

# Do we need saving today?

- “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.”
- Are we any better today?
- We need saving not just *from* bad things, but *for* good things. *For* the life God created us to have.
- Christ saves from sin and He saves for life!


# Major Ian Thomas



- 1914-2007
- Sincerely trying to serve Christ in his strength resulted in utter exhaustion and failure
- In his desperation he prayed and Christ seemed to say to him: 'You see, for seven years, with utmost sincerity, you have been trying to live for Me, on My behalf, the life that I have been waiting for seven years to live through you.'



# How does Christ save us?

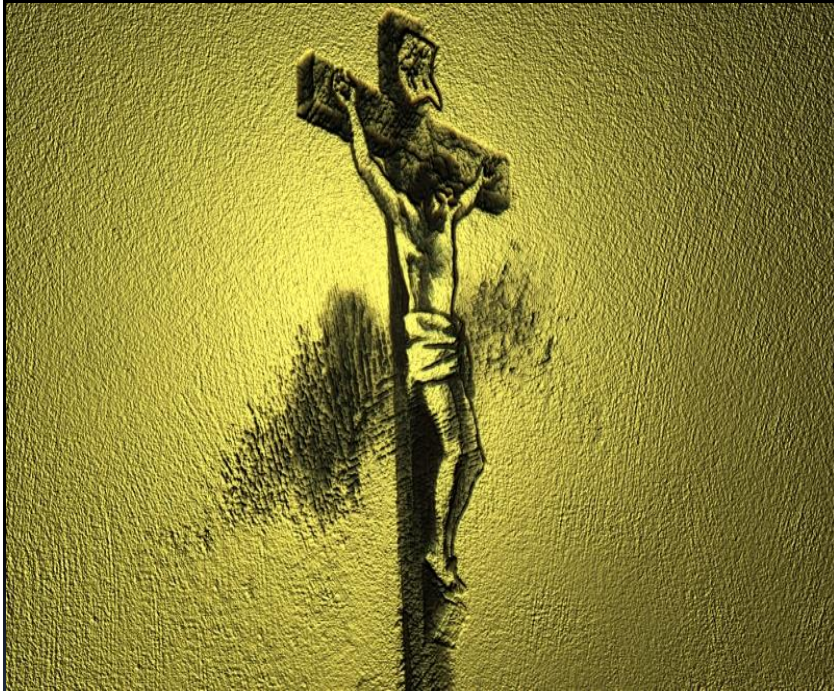
- He saves us by His mercy
  - He saves us through our rebirth
  - He saves us through giving us a new purpose for life
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# 1. Christ saves us by His mercy.

- “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy” (Titus 3:4-5a)
- In God’s mercy, Christ took our punishment on Himself.
- We must repent and believe to receive His forgiveness.



# The cross was...



- A public death
- A shameful death
- A painful death
- A certain death
- The resurrection was also publicly witnessed by more than 500 believers (1 Cor. 15:6)

## 2. He saves us by His life

- “He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:5b-6).

# What do people really need?


## Failed Ideologies


- Fascism – life is found in the nation
- Communism – dialectical materialism
- Hedonism – life is found in my lusts
- Walden Enthusiasts – life is found by a pond
- Retaliation – life is found in revenge
- Success – life is found in earthly success
- Liberalism – life is found in openness
- Artists – life is found in beauty



# Major Ian Thomas wrote:

“There is something which makes Christianity more than a religion, more than an ethic, and more than the idle dream of the sentimental idealist. It is this something that makes it relevant to each one of us right now as a contemporary experience. It is the fact that Christ is the very life content of the Christian faith. It is He who makes it ‘tick’ ...






Christ did not die simply that you might be saved from a bad conscience or even to remove the stain of past failure, but to “clear the decks” for divine action. You have been told that Christ died to save you. This is gloriously true in a very limited, though vital sense. In Romans 5:10 we read, ‘If, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.’ The Lord Jesus Christ therefore ministers to you in two distinct ways – He reconciles you to God by His death, and He saves you by His life...

## Major Ian Thomas, continued:


The glorious fact of the matter is this – no sooner has God reconciled to Himself the man who has responded to His call, than He re-imparts to him, as a forgiven sinner, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and this restoration to him of the Holy Spirit constitutes what the Bible calls regeneration, or new birth.”

*(The Saving Life of Christ, p 13-14).*



### 3. He saves us for His purpose

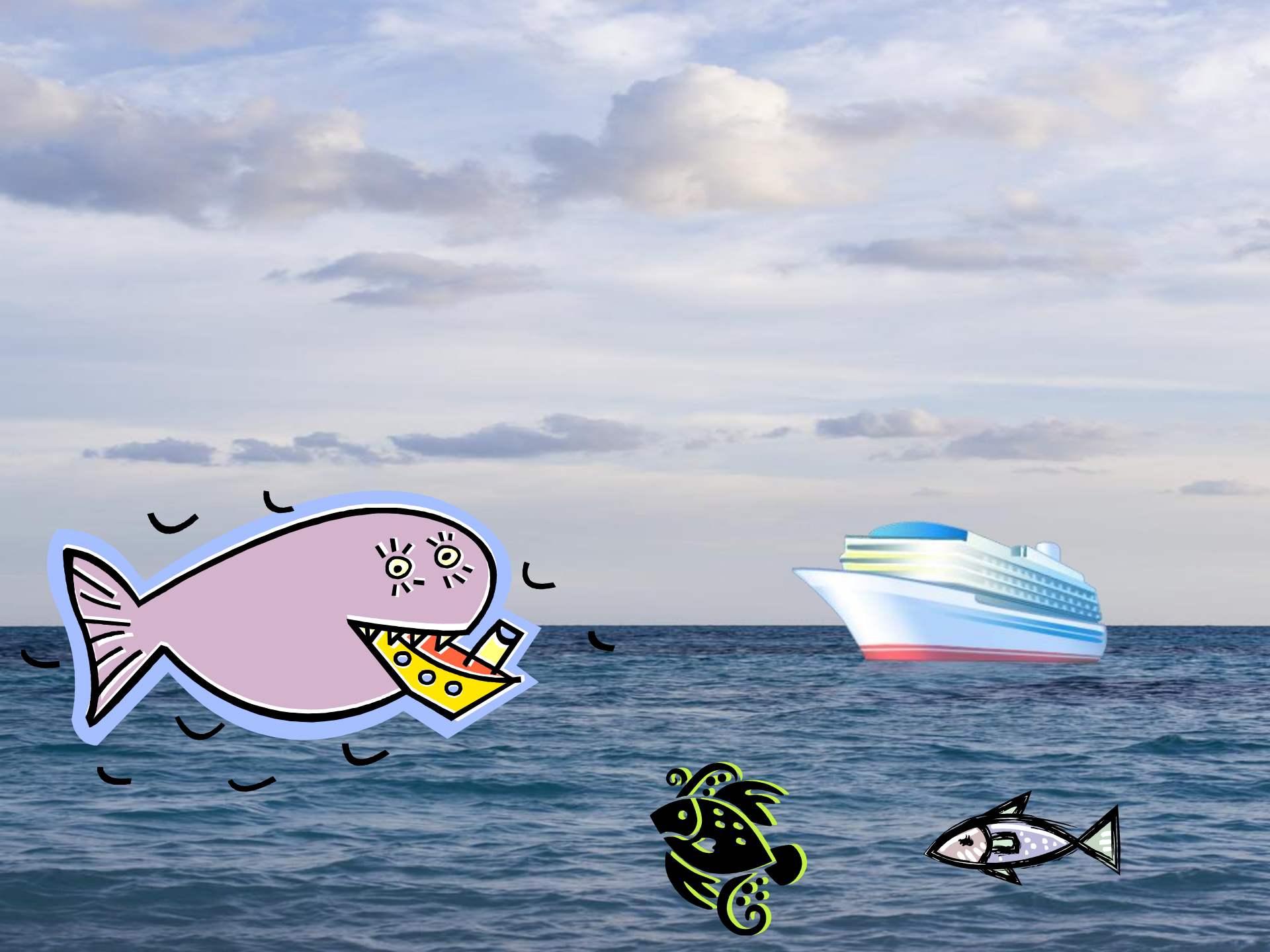
“So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life ...so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good” (Titus 3:7-8)




# The parable of two puddles












Romans 5:10: For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!





Romans 6:8-10: Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him...dead to sin but alive to God...



## A Gentler Cross?

Is there no gentler cross for me,  
Upon which I should die,  
Whose planks are planed and sanded down,  
And stained to match my eyes?  
Is there no gentler slope for me,  
Upward which I may trod,  
Whose path lies uniformly paved,  
Where shade trees line the road?






Is there no lighter beam for me,  
To carry toward that hill?

Must duty obligate me down?


Must mission bind my will?

Is there no softer spear for me,  
To thrust into my side?

I would that just a scratch sufficed  
That cut not hair nor hide.




Are there no smaller nails for me,  
To pierce my hands and feet?  
Or kinder crown or calmer crowd  
Where parting would be sweet?  
Help me escape self pity's own  
Exasperated cry.  
Hold me fast in Your love's grip  
That I may learn to die.



And in my self-help's emptied cry  
That feels its strength all gone,  
I learn to lean upon You, Lord,  
And in Your grace be strong.

The task for which You call us forth  
Requires the strength You give.  
You lead us out beyond ourselves  
So we may learn to live.



And in our own frustrating days  
During our own hard hour,  
Dying to self we learn to live  
In resurrection power.