

WHAT WE WERE AND WHAT WE ARE
AND HOW WE GOT HERE
TITUS 3:3-7

Introduction:

- A. Title of message.
 - 1. v3, What we were.
 - 2. v7, What we are.
 - 3. v4,5,6, How we got here.

- B. These words were written to real people, not made-up.
 - 1. Every Bible incident is about real people.

I. WHAT WE WERE.

- A. "For we ourselves also were sometimes disobedient, deceived."
 - 1. we ourselves.
 - 2. God's people often forget they are still sinners.
 - 3. sometimes = when, whenever, at some time, formerly.
 - 4. disobedient = rebellious, course of error
 - 5. deceived = lead astray, used of religious deceit or doctrinal error.

- B. serving divers lusts and pleasures.
 - 1. lusts = sinful desire.
 - 2. pleasures = lusts of the flesh.

- C. living in malice and envy.
 - 1. malice = kakia, badness, generically including every form of evil, physical and moral, kakia is evil habit frowing from poneria, the wicked act of the mind, vice in all its forms.
 - 2. envy = phthonos = jealousy of anothers success, depreciation of his worth, envy of his excellence, envy led to the first murder.

- D. hateful and hating one another.
 - 1. hateful = stugetos = hated, abominated, horrid; hatred shown, not merely felt.
 - 2. hating = miseo = a persecuting spirit, ill-will in words and conduct.

II. HOW WE GOT HERE.

- A. v4, The appearance.
 - 1. Man did not long for God.
 - 2. Kindness and love of God.

- B. v5, Not by works.
 - 1. Not by righteous works.
 - 2. How we are saved.
 - a. Mercy.
 - b. Regeneration.
 - c. Renewing.

- C. v6, He shed on us.
 - 1. shed = to pour out.
 - 2. abundantly = richly.

III. WHAT WE ARE. V7

- A. Justified = to set forth as righteous, to justify by a judicial act. By a judicial decision to free a man from his guilt and to represent him as righteous.

- B. Heirs = one who has the inheritance, the stress being laid on the possession.
 - 1. We have eternal life now!