

WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF ME?

Let me ask you a question:

Do you ever wonder what people think about you? Do you even care? To some extent, *most of us do care what others think of us.*

Now, let me ask you another question:

Has anyone ever told you what they think about you?

- When they do, you are often sorry they did.
- There have been times when a person told me just what they thought of me, and *I was glad they did*.
- There have been other times when folks have shared their thoughts about me, and *I was not pleased at all*.
- That is one reason I do not ask people what they think of me.
- *I am afraid they will tell me!*

Today, I want to look at this matter from a spiritual perspective.

- If you were to ask Satan what he thinks about you, he would probably say, *"You are a failure!"*
- If you asked society what they think of you, they might say, *"You are a fool!"*
- If you asked self, that is, your own heart, self might say, *"You are a fake!"*

Have you ever heard these things? Many have on a daily basis!

But does it really matter what Satan, society and self-think about you and me? No!

All that really matters, in the end, is what God thinks about us.

Have you ever wondered just what God thinks about you?

- Is it possible to know what God thinks about us?
- Do we really want to know what He thinks about us?
- Well, this passage clearly reveals *exactly what God thinks about us*.

Paul is writing to Titus, a young Pastor on the island of Crete.

In chapter two he wrote about **how believers should behave in the church**.

In this chapter, he talks about **how believers should behave in society**.

Titus 3:1-8 - Saved in Order to Do Good - Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ²to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Paul calls on Titus to “Remind the people” about certain things.

- **He wants the saints** to remember **who they are in Jesus**.
- **What they have** in Jesus; **What God has done** in them **through Jesus**
- **What God expects** of them ***as believers in Jesus***.

In these verses, **Paul answers the question** I posed a few moments ago: ***What Does God Think of Me?***

In this passage designed for instruction, we can find a word of encouragement.

- Some of you **may be discouraged** as you wonder ***how God sees you***.
- Well, **if you are saved**, you are about to find out.
- **If not**, you are going to **learn how God would see you if you came to Jesus**.

Let's investigate these verses together as we address the question: What Does God Think of Me?

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GOD THINKS YOU ARE PRECIOUS – (Vs. 3-6)

- ***Satan says, “God doesn’t care about you at all.”***
- ***God says something completely different.***
- ***These verses teach us that God loves us more than we can understand.***

The Extent of His Love – Vs 3 paints a picture of ***what the believer was*** before they met Jesus.

- ***Foolish*** – Ignorant of everything to do with God.
- ***Disobedient*** – Rebellious toward any authority instituted by God.
- ***Deceived*** – Continually led deeper and deeper into sin by Satan.
- ***Serving divers lusts and pleasures*** – A slave to our fleshly appetites.
- ***Living in malice*** – Given over to a lifestyle of evil.
- ***Envy*** – Never satisfied with what we have, always wanting more.
- ***Hateful*** – This is the natural fruit of all the above. This kind of life makes us mean-spirited and hard to get along with.
- ***Hating one another*** – Walking without love for our fellow man.

This is what we were, and what ***some in this room still are.***

It is a terrible condition to be in, yet that’s what the Bible says over & over!

Ephesians 2:1-3 - Made Alive in Christ - As for you, ***you were dead*** in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you ***followed the ways of this world*** and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in ***those who are disobedient.*** 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, ***gratifying the cravings of our flesh*** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, ***we were by nature*** deserving of wrath.

Even in that condition, ***God still loved us.*** He could have written us off and just ***allowed us go to Hell,*** but ***He loved us and did something about it!***

The Evidence Of His Love (Vs. 4) – “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared.”

“In spite of what we were and are, God chose to display His love for us.”

How did He do that? Answer (Vs. 6). “Through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

God gave evidence of His love for fallen man! John 3:16.

If you need evidence that you are precious to the Lord, then look no farther than Calvary, just look to the cross!

Look at Jesus as He dies on the cross for your sins -

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

The cross says, “I love you! You are special to Me!”

The Energy of His Love – What did this wonderful love of God do for us?

Part of the answer is found in the word “**but**” in (Vs. 4).

- **God knew what we were.**
- He saw us with all our sins and our baggage.
- **He still chose to “**butt**” into our lives** and save us by His grace.

Look at all His love and grace did for us in (Vs. 5). “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit!”

- He extended His grace and mercy to us when we deserved nothing but Hell.
- **He saved us** from the penalty of our sins (*saved*).
- **He cleansed us** from the defilements of our sins (*washing*).
- **He made a new creature** out of us (*regeneration*).
- **He placed His Spirit** within us to lead us deeper in Him day by day (*renewing*).

God did all of this with no help from us! Our works, our religion, our efforts cannot save us, they only compound the problem!

- God sees us exactly as we really are, but He loves us anyway!
- God Thinks You Are Precious!!!!

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GOD THINKS YOU ARE PERFECT – (Vs. 7a.) – “So that, having been justified by his grace.”

Again, the enemies of the believer, Satan and the flesh will tell you that you are dirty, wicked and that you have no hope at all.

The devil is a liar, and you can't believe a word your own heart tells you –

Jeremiah 17:9 - *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

Vs. 7 tells you what God thinks about your standing.

He says that He has “justified” you by His grace.

A Definition – What does it mean to be “justified”?

- Justified means, **“to render righteous.”**
- It is a word that speaks of **God declaring the saved person** to be in a perfect and right standing before God.
- That is saying a lot!

A Description – Being justified is far different from being forgiven.

- Some think justification is just the forgiveness of our sins.
- **Justification** is far more powerful than that!

The law of God is satisfied, there is no case against the redeemed ones!

There are no charges against the child of God.

A Defense – Some might say, ***“Well, that is an excuse to sin.”***

However, **when you as a believer sin**, you can expect *two things to happen*.

First, you can be sure that **you will reap what you sow**, Gal. 6:7-8.

Second, God will bring His chastisement into your life, Heb. 12:6-12.

You might be saved and forgiven as far as Heaven and eternity is concerned

- There will be earthly consequences for **our sinful actions**.
- **Low living carries a very high price**. Just ask Samson!

Not only does the Lord *see us as we really are*; He also sees us *as He has made us by His grace*!

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GOD THINKS YOU ARE PRIVILEGED – (Vs 7b) “We might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

- Satan comes by *and tells the believer* that ***serving God is waste of time***.
- That it just doesn’t pay off to live right.
- As you might imagine, **God sees things just a little differently**.
- He tells us in **(Vs. 7) that we are a privileged people**.

Privileged Because Of Our Earthly Hope – I realize that as Christians, we are all living for what is coming after this life.

I am looking forward to Heaven - But **I’ve got it good today!**

- The Lord **is always with me**, Heb. 13:5.
- The Lord has promised **to meet all my needs**, Phil. 4:19.
- He cares about **all that I face in life**, Heb. 4:15.
- **He listens to me** when I pray, Heb. 4:16.

You can take it any way you please, but if you are saved, you are a privileged person right now!

Privileged Because Of Our Eternal Hope –

- Not only are we privileged because of all we have here -
- We are privileged because of what awaits us when we leave here.
- **We have a home in Heaven.**
- We have a perfect place reserved for us in His presence.
- **NO more** death, hurting or sorrow.
- We are a privileged people!

He sees us like we are, yet He loves us. He sees us as He has made us.

He sees us as we will be someday. "Joint heirs"

Psalm 100:3 - Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

- We are a *precious* people.
- He saved us by His grace, apart from any works at all; He has made us perfect people.

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GOD THINKS YOU ARE PROFITABLE -

- Satan, or the flesh, often says, *"God can't use you!*
- *You will amount to nothing as a Christian.*
- *Look at the things you do.*
- *Look at how you live.*
- *You are a failure."*
- **You ever hear that?**

Well, the truth is a different matter altogether.

God saved us for a purpose, so that He can use us for His glory!

He Can Use Your Walk (Vs. 1) Paul is telling these folks to walk in a disciplined manner.

They are to obey the laws of the land and submit to the people who are in authority over them.

He is telling them that their simple walk of faith is proof that they are different from the world around them.

- *How you carry yourself daily* is a powerful witness to the world around you.
- *Allow God to live through you* and He will touch hearts.
- A disciplined, holy life is a power tool in the hands of the Lord.

He Can Use Your Witness (Vs.2)– Paul tells these people that the way they treat others is a testimony in the hands of God.

- They are told to avoid fighting and gossiping and just treat people with gentleness and meekness.
- He is merely telling them to have the testimony that they are different.

The way in which we conduct ourselves around others, and the way we treat others, is as powerful a witness as any we give with our lips.

- Of course, when we don't treat others right, it is a powerful witness too!

He Can Use Your Works (Vs.8) – When you set your heart to go after God the result will be good works.

- You will discover that **God did not save you just to keep you out of Hell.**
- **He saved you** to put you to work for Him.
- You might not think that **He can use you, *but He can.***

If He can use a murderer named Moses; a blasphemer named Saul of Tarsus; an adulterer named David; a rebel named Jonah; or a loudmouth like Simon Peter, then He can use you.

If you will do what He tells, your life will be a life of immense profit for the Kingdom of God!

God saved you knowing what you were and what you were capable of becoming by His power.

He saved you to use you and He will use you because He sees what He can do through you for His glory.

CLOSE: So, what does God think of you?

He thinks you are *Precious, Perfect; Privileged and Profitable*. That's how He sees you.

What do you need to do in your life to line up with His vision of you?

Has He shown you that there is room for improvement *in your walk with Him and your work for Him*?

If so, get to Him and deal with that today.

The things I have mentioned today are only true if you are saved.

What does God think of you if you are not saved?

He thinks you are in trouble. He thinks you are living a dangerous life.

He looks at you with love and *knows that there is a way out*.

There is hope for you if you will come to Jesus and be saved.

If you will, He will think all the wonderful things I have shared today, and more.

Isn't that what you want too?