

Three Ways To Look At Ourselves
Titus 3: 1-8

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. How do you see yourself? There are several ways to look at ourselves.
 - a. We can look at ourselves through the eyes of our parents.
 - b. We can look at ourselves the way others see us.
 - c. What we need to do is see ourselves through the eyes of God.
2. As the Apostle Paul writes to his friend Titus who is ministering among the immature churches on the island of Crete, he outlines three priorities for churches and individual believers who want to grow. Let's explore them together.
 - I. We Need A Real Consciousness of Our Past (**Titus 3: 3**).
 - A A priority of our awareness is the constant remembrance of what we were and what we might be today apart from the grace of God.
 1. It was an admission that unless our lives had been radically changed by God's grace, we would be just like the unsaved around us.
 - B How does Paul describe us?
 1. We were once "foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by passions and pleasures, in malice, living in envy, hateful and hating one another."
 - C Remembering what we used to be before coming to Christ should be a strong motive for obedience to God and for being more gentle toward the unbeliever.
 1. The grace of God keeps us focused! (**3: 4-8**).
 - II. We Should Be Astonished At The Present Grace (**Titus 3: 4-7**).
 - A If we continually remember what we were, we cannot help but have the priority of being overwhelmed with the fact that God saved us anyway!
 1. (**1 Tim. 2: 4; 2 Pet. 3: 9; Jn. 3: 16**).
 - B Just as Paul has given us seven characteristics of our lives before we were saved, now he gives us seven characteristics of our lives now that we are saved.
 1. We are recipients of God's "kindness, love, mercy, the washing of regeneration, the renewing of the Holy Spirit, we are justified by His grace and have become heirs of eternal life."
 - III. We Should Diligently Look At Our Future Works (**Titus 3: 8**).
 - A Paul gives us a final admonition in verse **8**, a "trustworthy saying."
 1. "These things," that is, these priorities of a mature ministry, we are to constantly "stress."
 2. We are to continually "remind" ourselves of these priorities so that "those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works."
 - B How do we stay focused on doing good?
 1. By being kind to everyone (**3: 1-8**).
 2. The best way to maintain harmony is to be devoted to doing good.