

**The Book of Titus**  
Chapter 3  
**“Make us a Garden for You”**

There was once a very successful businessman who wanted a garden in his back yard to enjoy on those rare occasions when he was at home.

He hired a woman with a doctorate in horticulture because he wanted to make sure he had an expert to create his little paradise.

The businessman explained that the garden must require “**Little or no maintenance**” because he didn’t have the time himself.

He asked her to see that automatic sprinklers were installed as well as other labor saving devices.

Finally she stopped the businessman and said to him. “**If there is no gardener, then there is no garden...**”

Every person that I know of, that has given their life to Jesus and wants Him to be Lord over their life, also wants their life to be a Garden for Jesus

**They want the fruit of the Spirit:** Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness.

**They want to love the way that 1 Corinthians 13 says:**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

4 Love **suffers long** and is **kind**; love does **not envy**; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does **not behave rudely**, does **not seek its own**, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

8 Love never fails.

**But I think that most of us would like these things to just suddenly appear as a part of our personality by some miracle.**

- What we don’t realize is that our life is also like a Garden.
- What we fail to understand is that “**Without a Gardener there will be no garden.**”

I love to work in my yard, in fact I have often said that if you just locked me in my yard with my gardening tools and plants forever, I would be a happy man.

**I have discovered though, that it takes daily, constant, dedicated care to make a yard into a beautiful garden.**

- **Now I want a beautiful garden** but I don't have, or should I say, I don't take the time to work at it as I should, If I really wanted it to be a place of beauty.

**I also want my life to be a garden for Jesus, I want to be like Him, to say and do those things that Jesus would do and say...**

- **It will take time.**
- **It will effort.**
- **It will take Jesus,** working on me, in the garden of my life changing me.
- **I have to allow Jesus** to be the Gardener of my life

**John 15:1-6 Jesus Said:**

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**

John 15:4 Abide in Me, (**Stay Attached to Jesus**) and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither** can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "**I am the vine, (The Source) you are the branches.** He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit;** for **without Me you can do nothing.**

6 **If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch** and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned

1. **Sometimes, Jesus the Gardener, has to Prune some of the limbs, of our life and that hurts.**
  - **There are things in our life** that Jesus will "Cut Off", that are dead, things that hinder us and slow us down.
  - **When Jesus prunes us,** sometimes it feels like it is going to kill us, but the pruning is to allow more growth, not to kill us.
2. **Sometimes the Gardener has to Pull out the weeds that have grown in the garden of our life.**
  - **Weeds are those material things** and the cares of this life that are a part of this world that grab our attention and time.
  - **We can get so busy** with the things of our life, that we forget that all of this is going to burn up, and only our relationship with Jesus and what we did with and for Him is going to last forever.
  - **The Weeds of the world get tangled up** with out roots in Jesus, they rob us of the nutrients of time in His Word, and hinder our growth, they can even choke the life out of us.

- **When we allow things to come into our life** that hinder us, and rob us, like the weeds, Sometimes Jesus the gardener needs to pull them out of our life.

### 3. Sometimes the Gardener has to Break up the hard ground.

- **When we have been hurt** and disappointed, when people have failed to meet our EXPECTATIONS we sometimes build up a hard heart.
- **When we have tried and failed**, tried and failed, we begin to harden our heart.
- Jesus might have to come and take the shovel of HIS WORD this morning to break up the hard ground of our heart, or the pick of a TRIAL to break up the hard heart. That is going to hurt and it is going to be uncomfortable for awhile.
- Often, the only way that our heart can be softened is to be broken.

### **James 5:7-8**

7 **Therefore be patient, brethren**, until the coming of the Lord. **See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth**, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

8 **You also be patient. Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1. **We need to “Establish our Heart”**, understand that Jesus is working as a gardener in our life everyday.
2. **We need this morning** to remember that the Coming of Jesus is at hand, He can come for us at any moment, so we want our life to be prepared for Him.
3. **So, let’s allow the Holy Spirit** every opportunity that there is, to come here and have Him teach us through the Word of God.

In chapter 2 of Titus previously, Paul was teaching Titus those things that were necessary for “Sound Doctrine”

- Teach them to the Older Men.
- Teach them to the Older Women.
- Teach them to the Young Men and Women.

In chapter 3, as we finish the book of Titus this morning, we are going to pull all of these groups together: The Older men and women, The Younger men and Women...

### **Titus 3**

1 **Remind them** to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

The Word of God does not teach that we should disobey government authority.

- **Actually, the Lord says** that we should “**Be in subjection**” or “Put ourselves under the authority” of those who are over us in our Federal and State Governments.

- **We must realize that** “There are no powers except those that the Lord has ordained.”

### **Romans 13:1-2**

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

**At the time the Book of Daniel was written, Babylon was the most powerful nation on the earth.**

- **Today** we know this area as Iraq.
- **The king** of Babylon was Nebuchadnezzar.
- **Nebuchadnezzar** had a dream one night, and in this dream he saw a great statue With a Head of Gold, Arms of Silver, Belly and Thighs of Bronze, and Legs of Iron, Feet that were Part Iron and Part Clay...

**This statue will represent the Major world wide kingdoms that will come upon the earth throughout human history!**

- **None of the kings** mediums or soothsayers could tell Nebuchadnezzar what the meaning of the statue was.
- **Daniel is brought into the kings presence** because it is known that “*His God has given Daniel the power to interpret such dreams.*”

### **Daniel 2:31-47**

31 (**Daniel speaking to Nebuchadnezzar**) “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 **This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,**

33 **its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

34 You watched while **a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image** on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 **“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation** of it before the king.

37 **You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;**

38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—**you are this head of gold.** (**Babylonian Kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar**)

39 But **after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours**; arms of silver, (**Persian Empire under King Cyrus**) then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. (**Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great**)

40 And **the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, (Roman Kingdom)** inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

41 Whereas you saw **the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; (Revived Roman Empire/European Union under Antichrist)** yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 And **in the days of these kings (European Union) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

45 Inasmuch as you saw that **the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold (Jesus Kingdom)**—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

46 Then **King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel**, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

47 **The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.**



This is truly an amazing statement here in verses 46 and 47, if you consider that this Babylonian king is the most powerful man in the entire world, and he has just “**Bowed before Daniel**” (Vs 46) and has now “**Given worship and praise to The Lord of Heaven and Earth!**” (Vs 47)

**Well. This worship and praise of The Lord by Nebuchadnezzar was short lived.**

- **As Nebuchadnezzar** began to think about this statue, that Daniel had described as Nebuchadnezzar being the Head of Gold.
- **He realizes** that his kingdom represented by the “**Head of Gold**” is going to be replaced by another kingdom, represented by the “**Arms of Silver...**”
- **Nebuchadnezzar decides** that he will try and overrule the prophecy of other nations coming to defeat Babylon, by making a statue entirely out of Gold.
- **In other words**, “**I will not be just the Head of Gold, but I will be the entire statue of Gold, God will never remove my kingdom**”

### **Daniel 3:1**

Nebuchadnezzar **the king made an image of gold**, whose height was sixty cubits (**90 Feet Tall**) and its width six cubits. (**9 Feet Wide**) He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Well as a result of King Nebuchadnezzar's defiance of the first prophecy that Daniel had made that **Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, represented by the head of Gold, that would be replaced by a 2nd kingdom represented by the Arms of silver of the Persians** and so on...

1. **By making the Statue entirely out of Gold**, Nebuchadnezzar was saying to the Lord and the whole earth: *"My kingdom will not ever pass away, I will be the king forever"*
2. **Later, In chapter 4 Verse 24**, Daniel comes back to Nebuchadnezzar to tell him "A Decree by the Most High God".

### **Daniel 4:24-37**

24 O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

25 **They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen.** They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, **till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**

"Because you thought that your plans could overrule the Lord of Heaven Nebuchadnezzar, you will be driven out into the fields and eat grass like a cow for 7 years, UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH IS THE ONE THAT RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN AND GIVES THESE KINGDOMS TO WHOMEVER HE CHOOSES!

28 **All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.**

29 **At the end of the twelve months** he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.

30 The king spoke, saying, **"Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"**

31 **While the word was still in the king's mouth**, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!

32 **And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."**

33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

**Finally, at the end of the 7 years, Nebuchadnezzar understands through the PRUNING PROCESS of the Lord, that HE IS THE ONE THAT IS REALLY IN CONTROL IN MY LIFE...**

34 **And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:**

**For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
And His kingdom is from generation to generation.**

Daniel 4:35 **All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;**

**He does according to His will in the army of heaven**

**And among the inhabitants of the earth.**

**No one can restrain His hand**

**Or say to Him, "What have You done?"**

36 **At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me.** My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

37 Now **I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.**

So, this Old Testament Example of King Nebuchadnezzar is to make the point of what Paul is seeking to teach is in verse 1 of Titus chapter 3:

### **Titus 3**

1 **Remind them** (This is us) to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

### **And Romans Chapter 13**

#### **Romans 13:1-2**

1 Let every soul (This is us) be subject to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

So, for us this morning, If Jesus is our Lord, then we absolutely do not have the **option or the right to disobey any governmental authority.**

1. **We are to obey the laws** of the lands.
2. **We are to pay** our taxes.
3. **When it says the speed limit is 75,** WHO MADE THE SPEED LIMIT 75? JESUS!
4. **We are to do** what the United States, Arizona and Winslow's Laws say we are supposed to do.
5. **To not obey any of these,** is to actually do what Romans 13:2 says, that we just looked at:

#### **Romans 13:2**

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

The only time that I can think of that we would ever refuse to obey the law of the United States is if they ever tell us that we can no longer Worship and Serve Jesus...Then we will say what Peter said in Acts chapter 5:

### **Acts 5:28-29**

28 saying, **(The religious leaders in Israel to The Disciples of Jesus:)** “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in Jesus name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!”

29 But **Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.**

### **Titus 3**

2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

**The biggest violation of this verse is when we “Share with each other” what we have heard about someone, or what someone has done to us or the church or ....well take your pick, WHATEVER WE SAY ABOUT ANYONE IN A NEGATIVES WAY!**

- **Christians do this all of the time**, we talk about people in a negative tone.
- **When we do this**, and let me tell you **I WRONGLY do it all of the time also**, when I do it or you do it, **IT IS SIN! IT IS WRONG!**

**When we speak negatively about someone, we have placed ourselves in the position that only belongs to the Lord. We make our self JUDGE.**

### **Galatians 5:14-15**

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

15 But **if you bite and devour one another**, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Let me see a show of hands how many of you like to have someone say unkind or negative things about you?

**How does it make you feel? It hurts doesn't it?**

Then if we know how much it hurts us, why do we do it to other people. I may be wrong but every one of in this room says unkind and negative things about someone... Instead we are to determine ahead of time, right now this morning, **I AM NOT GOING TO SPEAK EVIL OF ANOTHER PERSON AGAIN!!!**

### **Titus 3**

2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

**Instead we are to be:**

- **“Peaceable”**: *A tendency towards seeking peace, making peace, a person free from strife and arguments.*

- **“Gentle”**: *Having a kind nature, being moderate in our force of others, by using little or no force.*
- **“Showing all Humility to all men”** *The biblical definition of Humility is to see yourself through the eyes that The Lord sees you. As a hopeless and lost sinner who deserves hell, who’s only saving claim is that Jesus Died so that they could be forgiven.*

### **Titus 3**

3 For **we ourselves were also once** foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

If you are **“In Christ Jesus”** this morning, then you are **“A New Creation, the old things have passed away, behold all things are new”**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation; old things have passed away;** behold, all things have become new.

- **Once, before we knew Jesus** and His great love and sacrifice for us, we used to be different people.
- **We were foolish, disobedient:** We didn’t know any better, but today if we are in Christ we know now what it took for Jesus to die for that foolishness and disobedience, so we are seeking to no longer be foolish and disobedient.

### **Verse 3** “...living in malice...”

**“Malice”** is: *“The desire to cause harm to someone or cause someone pain.”*

Have you ever seen that bumper sticker: **“I don’t get mad, I get even?”**

- **That is malice,** a desire to get even with people when they hurt us, or use us or say something about us.
- **If you are “In Christ”** today we are no longer seeking to do harm to someone or cause them pain.

### **Matthew 5:43-44**

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 But **I say to you,** love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

You see, when we forget who we really were **before Jesus forgave us** and saved us, we will start mistreating other people.

- **Basically, without Jesus,** I was just **“Puddle Scum” “A Lump of Dirt”**

**Puddle Scum and Dirt doesn’t have any rights, it doesn’t have anything to be proud of or boast about.**

Did you know you could buy the entire contents of your human body for about **30 bucks**? That's it, Essentially we are made from the "**Dust of the Ground**"

The bible says that we are **But dust and ashes!**

### **Genesis 18:27**

...I who am **but dust and ashes** have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

### **Titus 3**

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,  
5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,...

There is not a single thing that any human being could do to make themselves acceptable to God.

- **Those who try to be acceptable by keeping the 10 commandments fail.**

### **James 2:10**

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all

- **Those who believe that God accepts a person who is a good person, don't know what the Bible says:**

### **Psalms 53:2-3**

2 God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

3 Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

**Verse 5** "Not through any works of Righteousness that we have done, but according to **WHAT?** His Mercy He saved us.

- **Remember** what the definition of "Mercy" is: "**Not Getting what we really deserve**"
- **What every human being deserves**, including this pastor is Hell.
- **Because everyone of us** is Hateful, rebellious, disobedient, Everyone of us has broken Gods Law, including this pastor.
- **But Jesus was not willing** that ANYONE SHOULD GO TO HELL, **that is why He took the punishment you and I deserved, on that Cross.**
- **So that If anyone** would accept Jesus payment for their sins, they would be saved.
- ***"According to His Mercy He saved us..."***

### **Titus 3**

through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,  
6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

- **I think sometimes we forget** that when Jesus cleanses us from our sin, we really are clean.

### **Isaiah 1:18**

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

**Do you know how the Deaf make the sign for “Jesus?”**

The right hand uses the little finger to draw the letter “J” in the palm of the left hand.

- **They put those nails** through Jesus Wrists, for your forgiveness.
- **Jesus let them hang Him** on the Cross so that you could be here today with a single sin attached to your name!

*“Through the washing of Regeneration...”* **This means Jesus** “Washed Away your sins”

- Notice it doesn't say, **“He Ignored your Sins”**
- Notice it doesn't say, **“He covered up your Sins”**
- Notice it doesn't say, **“He swept your sins under the rug”**

**The Blood of Jesus was so precious, because He is God, and the high value of the sacrifice that Jesus made for you is so great that your sin was “Washed away as If it never Existed”**

On a cold winter evening a man suffered a heart attack and after being admitted to the hospital, asked the nurse to call his daughter.

He explained, **"You see, I live alone and she is the only family I have."**

The nurse went to phone the daughter. The daughter was quite upset and shouted, **"You must not let him die! You see, Dad and I had a terrible argument almost a year ago."**

**I haven't seen him since. All these months I've wanted to go to him for forgiveness. The last thing I said to him was 'I hate you.'"**

The daughter cried and then said, **"I'm coming now. I'll be there in thirty minutes."**

The father went into cardiac arrest, and code 99 was alerted.

The nurse prayed, **"O Lord, his daughter is coming. Don't let it end this way."**

The efforts of the medical team to revive the patient were fruitless.

The nurse observed one of the doctors talking to the daughter outside the room. She could see the pathetic hurt in her face. The nurse took the daughter aside and said, **"I'm sorry."**

The daughter responded, "**I never hated him, you know. I loved him, And now I want to go see him.**"

The nurse took her to the room, and the daughter went to the bed and buried her face in the sheets as she said good-bye to her deceased father.

The nurse, as she tried not to look at this sad good-bye, noticed a scrap of paper on the bed table.

She picked it up and read: "**My dearest Janie, I forgive you. I pray you will also forgive me. I know that you love me. I love you, too. Daddy.**"

Is there someone that you know that you need to go to or call TODAY and say "**I forgive you. I pray you will also forgive me. I know that you love me. I love you, too.**"

- **I learned a clear lesson** about how fast life is over this week.
- **Our Friend and Brother Spider** that just started coming to Calvary Chapel 3 weeks ago died last week, he was only 32 years old.
- **He met Sondie on the street**, he was looking for someone to talk to about the break up of his marriage.
- **Sondie brought him to me**, I took him to Jesus.
- **I prayed with Spider right there** and he asked Jesus to forgive all of his sins and be Lord and Savior of his life.
- **He is in the presence of Jesus right now**, only because of this verse we have been looking at this morning:

### **Titus 3:5-7**

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,  
6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

In all of our sin and failures, even those sins that we commit right at the hour of our death, **Jesus Forgave those all when we asked Him to...**Not by works of our righteousness but according to His Mercy He saved us.

**Aren't you glad that he saved us according to HIS MERCY and not according to our mercy?**

- **Our mercy** keeps a record of sin, makes some sins worse than others, disqualifies people because they committed a certain sin at the hour of our death.

**Jesus saved us According to His Mercy...**

### **Titus 3**

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should **be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable to men.

9 But **avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless**.

10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

**Any person who seeks to stir up anything that would cause us to be divided or fractured, we are to reject them after a first and second gentle humble warning...**

**Paul then finishes the Book of Titus with a few personal words to Titus...**

12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

13 Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.

14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

**Lord Jesus make us a Garden of beauty for you...Prune us, Pull out our weeds, Take out your shovel and pick and break up our hard hearts...**