

O What a Savior

Titus 3:3-7

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.

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, 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.

"O What a Savior". Marvin P. Dalton wrote that song in 1948. It conveys a powerful and beautiful message about a Savior whose heart was broken on Calvary, Whose hands were nail-scarred, Whose side was riven, Who gave His lifeblood, for even me.

Who is this wonderful Savior? The Apostle Peter proclaimed His name to the rulers in Jerusalem in Acts 5:

30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 "Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." [Act 5:30-31]

Jesus who was crucified and raised from the dead is the Lord and Savior. He gives repentance and forgiveness of sins.

The "savior" means deliverer, preserver (Vine 322). In classical Greek the term was applied to mighty men or rulers. In the New Testament, however, it is applied only to either God the Father or to Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament only God was truly the Savior. **"I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior."** (Isa. 43:11). **"Yet I am the LORD your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no savior besides Me."** (Hos. 13:4). The prophets proclaimed that their deliverance could only come through God.

In the New Testament the word Savior is never applied to a mere man. While sometimes God the Father is identified as Savior (Luke 1:47; 1 Tim. 1:1), the term most commonly refers to Jesus Christ as Savior.

At his birth an angel announced, **"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,"** (Luke 2:11). Jesus defined His mission as Savior, saying, **"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost,"** (Luke 19:10).

Jesus Christ is God our Savior. Paul teaches this clearly in Titus 3. In verses 4-6 He writes, **"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, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,"** (Tit 3:4-6). In verse 4 Paul calls God our Savior and in verse 6 he calls Jesus Christ our Savior. Jesus Christ is God our Savior. Besides Him there is no savior.

If Jesus is the Savior, from what does he save us? What danger or disaster imperils us? We need deliverance from the worst affliction and trouble known to mankind — deliverance from sin. In Matthew the angel says to Joseph, “**And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins,**” (Matt. 1:21). 1 John 4:14 says, “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.” What did the world need saving from? 1 John 2:2 says about Jesus: “**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**” Jesus is the Savior who delivers us from sin.

Paul describes how hideous that sin is in 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.**” Sin is the deadly pandemic of mankind. Romans 3:23 says, “**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**” James 1:15 says, “**Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**” O what a Savior, who takes away our sin!

So Jesus took our death penalty upon Himself. The Savior would go to Calvary, and shed His own blood, to save us. There could be no greater expression of love and grace than that shown when the Father sent his Son to die in our stead (Isa. 53; Rom. 5:8-9), that we might be delivered from the curse of sin. As Titus 3:4 says it was “**the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man.**” O what a Savior, who loved us died for us!

Octavius Winslow wrote:

O unexampled love! O infinite and free grace! That God should become incarnate — that the Holy One should so take upon Him sin, as to be dealt with by stern justice as though He were Himself the sinner — that He should drain the cup of wrath, give His back to the smiters, endure the shame and the spitting, and at last be suspended upon the cross, and pour out His last drop of most precious blood — *and all this for me!*

O what a Savior is Jesus Christ! He is the chief among ten thousand! Look at His sinless, yet real humanity — without a single taint, yet sympathizing with us in all our various conditions — our afflictions — our temptations — our infirmities — our griefs. Now that He is in glory, He is still cherishing a brother's heart, bending down His ear to our petitions — ever standing near . . .

to catch our sighs,
to dry our tears,
to provide for our needs,
to guide us by His counsel, and
afterwards to receive us to glory!

O what a Savior is Jesus Christ! When He is known — all other beings are eclipsed. **When His beauty is seen** — all other beauty fades.

When His love is felt — He becomes supremely enthroned in the affections.

To know Him more, becomes the one desire of the renewed mind; and to make Him more known, is the one aim of the Christian life. O what a Savior is Jesus Christ!

Do you know this Savior?

Do you believe that this beautiful, sinless Savior bore all the ugliness of your sin for you on the cross?

Do you believe that God raised Him from the dead in triumph over sin and death?

O what a Savior is Jesus! Won't you come to Him today?