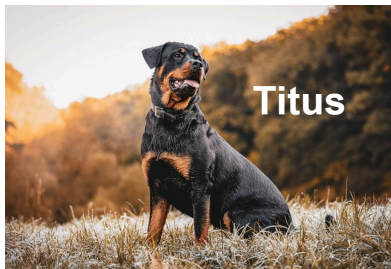


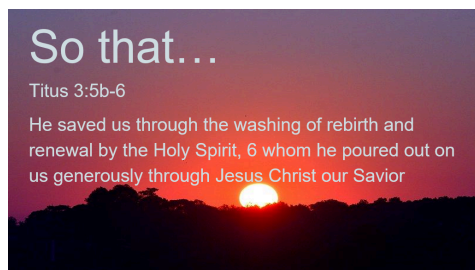
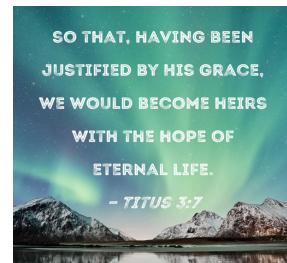
Titus #10

Titus 3:7 “Heirs”

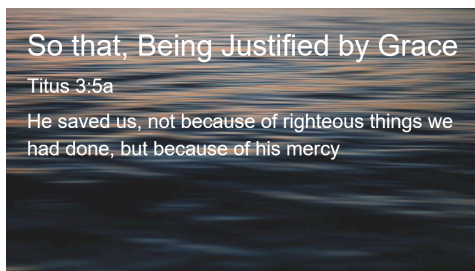
Daniel McConnell
March 22, 2026



When I think of “Titus” I think of a Rottweiler I knew when I was a college student. I love dogs and it didn’t take me long to make friends with Titus since he was the only dog in our dorm. But does this have anything to do with the book of Titus? Well....Paul sent Titus to get people into shape, similar to a Rottweiler.



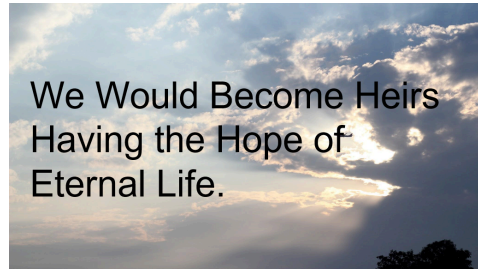
This recalls last week’s sermon where Mark talked about how we were saved by his mercy, not because of what we do.



This is important because there are many instructions in this book about what we should do: Sue reminded us that we need “grace sandwiches.”

To recap:

We are justified by grace, and generously given the washing and renewal by the Holy Spirit so that...



This is rich; I want to spend most of our time on the word "Heirs."



The Gospel is about Story, Kingdom, and Identity: "Heirs" is about our identity.

Romans 8:16-17
The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are **God's children**. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Let's look at Rom 8:16-17 which summarizes well the idea of heirs and the idea of family. We are God's child; he is our Abba father.

Family

When we talk about family, we address each other in special terms of who a person is to us: "Dad," for example. Once, I experimented with calling my father "Jeff" and it didn't last long. My dad doesn't call me "son" but instead calls me Daniel, a name he gave me.

Family of God

When Paul says we are family, it means we can go to God and call him "Dad." God sees us as his child; we are in a family together.

Galatians 4:1
What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate.

This verse shows me that there is a legal aspect of being an heir, beyond just family.

Roman Inheritance

Roman inheritance was passed on to all children and divided equally.

Roman adoption - made the adoptee an equal heir

Roman emperors

Titus Caesar Vespasianus Augustus

The adoptee takes on the family name, brings all they have into the household, and learns and practices the ways of the family.

The Jewish people at the time of Titus had no formal way to make people heirs so Paul uses the Roman laws surrounding inheritances. Roman laws:

1. Are passed on to ALL children, not just males, and shared equally.
2. Apply to adopted children and blood children.
3. Roman emperors used this a lot; in fact, Titus (different Titus) was the 10th Roman emperor and the first blood emperor.

4. The adopted person takes on the family name and brings all they had into the household as well. They surrendered all your property to the head of the household. If you had more than the person who was adopting you, you would likely decline the adoption. You live in the household and learn the practices and ways of the family.

Cretan Way

- Liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons

- **Fear**

Jesus Way

- Speak truthfully, be peaceable and considerate, and ready to do whatever is good

- **Faith**

This made me think of the Cretan vs. the Jesus Way. Cretans were known as liars, evil brutes, and lazy gluttons. Without a value system of a good God, this is what happens. It seems like the Cretan Way is the way of **FEAR** and Jesus offers us the way of **FAITH**.

Having the Hope of Eternal Life

The Jesus Way gives us the Hope of Eternal Life. What does this look like? Let's look at different translations:

NIV

having the hope of eternal life

NASB

According to the hope of eternal life

The Good News

come into possession of the eternal life we hope for

The Message

He has given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!

I like the Good News that invites us to come into the possession of eternal life. The Message says he has given us back our lives, reminding me we are washed and reborn and yet in the process of renewal by the Holy Spirit with the hope of eternity to come.

The Mystery of the Holy Spirit

We are Healed



We will be Healed

Here is how I see this: recently my dad was in the hospital with an infection: They removed the infection with a tube (painful) but he felt so much better afterwards. But he wasn't fully healed because the antibiotics still needed time to work. Eventually, though, his body fully recovered. A lot of times when we get healed, we walk out of the hospital and someone sneezes in our face and we get sick again. But there is always the Good Father to come back and heal us again and again.

New Creation:
Rev 21:1-7

But Daniel I want specifics!
1 John 3:1-3

I've thought a lot about the New Creation:

Rev 21

21 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven

from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

The rest of Revelation goes into more details but it doesn't answer all of my questions. I want specifics like, "Will there be dogs in heaven?"

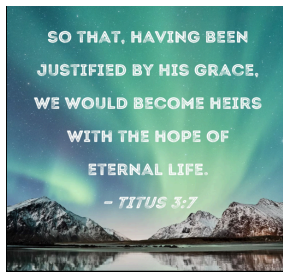
I went to **1 John** to find out more:

1 John 3

1 John See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,^[a] we shall be like him,

for we shall see him as he is. **3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

We don't have to figure it out but it can be infuriating when we want to figure things out. This is like the Jewish people waiting for a Messiah: Jesus wasn't what they were expecting, yet it was very very good.



Something was Missing

I believe I am a part of the family of God. An heir, having the hope of eternal life...

But I don't feel it.

Yet, something is missing...I don't feel it! I don't treat God like my own dad at the end of the day. Sometimes this happens, yet soon after I move in my ways of fear.

Here are some of my ideas of how to cultivate being a child of God:

How to Cultivate the Feeling of Being a Child of God

- Let God be God and let yourself be human
- Rehearse the ways God delights in you
- Build in habits of worship

Let God be God and let Yourself be Human

"Between us and God, only one of us is surprised we are exactly human sized"

- Steve Cuss, "The Expectation Gap"

The big 5 false needs:

Control, perfection, knowing the answer, being there for people, and approval

Jesus died so I don't have to _____ anymore.

I recommend *The Expectation Gap* by Steve Cuss. We try to take God's job all the time: this book talks about our false needs:

- Control of how I'm seen by others
- Being there for people
- Knowing the answer
- Approval of people

Recognizing a false need is one thing but lifting it back to God is another. Jesus died so I don't have (*know the answer, be there for people, get approval from others....*) anymore.

God Delights in you Personally

God has given you gifts to offer in service to his kingdom and he has given you gifts for your personal pleasure because he delights in you as his child

- Steve Cuss, "The Expectation Gap"

God delights in you and gives you gifts. Does God give me gifts just to delight me? Like my friend, Titus the Rottweiler.

I recommend making a life-giving list:

Create a life giving list:

Make a list of people places and activities that make you feel alive, human, and grateful.

Daily	Weekly/Monthly	Whopper

Here is my list:

Create a life giving list:

Make a list of people places and activities that make you feel alive, human, and grateful.

Daily	Weekly/Monthly	Whopper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drinking coffee by a window• Petting my dog• Going on a walk at sunset	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making a fancy breakfast• Calling a friend• Playing board games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long camping/backpacking trips

Family of God

- We come into the household with all we have.
- We learn and practice the ways of the household.
- As heirs we share in the inheritance of the family both now and in the age to come.

One habit I have built into my life is praying for 30 second on the tile floor near my bed.

Build Habits of Worship

Book recommendation:
"The Common Rule" by Justin Whitmel Earley

Build Daily Habits:
Waking, meals, and sleeping

Build Weekly Habits:
Sabbath, friendship, and limits on entertainment/screen based media

Building habits into our lives, like one hour a day with no screens. Find ways that you can do this: the goal is to be a member of God's family, accepting our child duties and God as our Father.