

# *Irresistible* **INFLUENCE**

## **THE WONDER OF SALVATION**

Matt VanCleave

November 21, 2021



### **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

What is the earliest childhood memory you have?

### **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will take responsibility for having my mind formed by biblical teaching.
- I will privately study and reflect on God's Word regularly.
- I will guard myself against the doctrine of our world.
- I will commit to regularly placing myself under the teaching of God's word.
- I will learn from older men and women who bring so much wisdom to our church.

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY**

In Titus 3:1, Paul instructs Titus with this one word, "Remind." One day you hear about the wonder of salvation, the miracle of God's grace, His unconditional love, being right with him and forgiven of your sins, accepted and adopted as his child. But over time what can happen is you stop being overwhelmed and you learn to live with sin and spiritual mediocrity.

But Paul reminds you of the wonder of salvation. It starts with the doctrine of sin. Apart from the grace and power of God, you are a slave to sin. But God did not leave you on your own. Paul continues with the source of our salvation, the doctrine of justification. God saved you, not because of the righteous things you've done, but because of his mercy. The ongoing result of our salvation is called the doctrine of regeneration, being made alive by the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Then there's the future hope of your salvation. You become an heir having the hope of eternal life. Don't forget the wonder of your salvation.

He then reminds you to do good. We can make the Christian life so complicated, and then we come to a statement like this. This is God's simplest command. Pray this each day this week: "Make me ready to do whatever is good."

## ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

1. Habituation is the tendency to stop noticing something that's part of your environment for a prolonged period of time. Think of something around your home or workplace you've stopped noticing. Share what it is and how long you've been living with it.
2. Read Titus 3:3-7. How does Paul describe life before and after salvation? What memories do these verses bring to your mind of the work God has done in your life?
3. Read Romans 7:15-20. Paul says we are slaves to sin, no matter our best intentions. How do you handle the moments, in Paul's words, "what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."
4. Where do you notice the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit at work renewing you?
5. In what ways can we complicate God's simple command to "do what is good?" Name one way you can uncomplicate doing good in your life.
6. Who is someone far from God that this week you will be bold, share your faith, and make an invitation to come to church with you? And add your name and theirs to the prayer list for this week.

## ***NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)***

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will remember and reflect on the wonder of our salvation.
- I will notice the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit at work renewing me.
- I will pray, "God, help me do what is good."
- I will notice people who are far from God and extend an invitation to Blue Oaks.

## ***SCRIPTURE REFERENCES***

- Titus 3:1-15
- Romans 8:17
- Proverbs 25:11

## ***SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES***

- [The Doctrine of Man: The Fall of Man and the Nature of Sin](#)
- [Doctrine of Salvation: The Grounds, Means, and Results of Justification](#)
- [Doctrine of Salvation: Regeneration](#)
- "Nobody's too good for the lowest service. Those who worry about the loss of time entailed by such small external acts of helpfulness are usually taking their own work too seriously. We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God, who will thwart our plans and frustrate our ways time and again, even daily, by sending people across our paths with their demands and requests. We can pass them by being preoccupied with our more important daily tasks just as the priest, perhaps reading the Bible, passed by the man who had fallen among robbers. It is part of the school of humility that we offer a hand where it can perform a service." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS***

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

- 
- 
- 
- 
-