**Scripture Reading:** Titus 3

**Singing:** 395:1-4 – 175:1-4 – 111:1, 4 – 451:1-2

Intro: **Salvation is the restoration of the sinners!**

A. God’s first deed upon determining to save: *pay the price!*

B. God’s first deed upon saving the sinner: *regeneration!*

1. Regeneration is the fountain, sanctification is the river

a. God finds the sinners either in world or church Eph. 2:1

b. He labors to restore human nature Eph. 2:10

c. He finally presents His saints in perfection: Eph. 5:26-27

C. What is the **great purpose of God in saving sinners**?

1. Primary is *not comfort of* but His *Glory in His saints Eph. 1:18*

a. 1 Peter 2:9 *… you are chosen generation … that ye should*

*shew forth the praise of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

b. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 *… we are the temple of Holy Ghost and ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s!*

c. Rom 8:29: *predestinate to be conformed to the image of*

*His Son*

2. Second purpose is *that the saints excel in good works*

a. *Good Works* have gotten bad/suspect name

b. But *good works* have a very positive name in NT

**●** Matt. 5:17 *Shine your light … your good works*

● Acts 9:36: *Dorcas was full of good works*

● 1 Tim. 2:10 *Paul exhorts women to adorn themselves with good works.*

● 1 Tim. 5:10 *Paul points out widows ‘well reported*

*of for good works*

● 1 Tim. 6:18 *Paul exhorts to rich in good works*

● Tit 2:14 Jesus *saved sinners to be zealous of*

*good works*

● Tit 3:8 Pastoral *ministry should constantly affirm*

*the necessity of good works in the saints*

● See further Titus 3:14; Heb. 10:24; 1 Pet 2:12

c. Why do *good works or duty* have a bad name among us?

● fear for *legalism (work-based religion)*

● fear for *disclosure* *for being hypocrite* (see q. 87 in H Cat)

- Plumer: *Nothing can set aside the evidence of a*

*holy life. It is better than a revelation of heaven!*

*- There will be no entering heaven, if heaven hasn’t*

*entered into you*

d. Good works have another enemy: *anti-nomian* (Rom. 6:14; 13:8)

Final truths

A. All saints remain ‘toddlers’ in sanctification on earth

B. Fear to ***mix*, *separate or reverse*** justification and sanctification

**Question to ponder this week:**

1. Is faith enough for salvation? Check James 2

2. How will spiritual life suffer by embracing legalism again? Check Gal. 3

3. Why do we generally not appreciate *holiness preaching?* Check 1 John

4. What is relationship between *justification and sanctification?* Check

Rom. 12, Gal. 5,

We are not saved by our deeds but by Christ’s sacrifice for our misdeeds.

When we take least notice of our good works, God takes most notice of them.