



## DAY **TITUS 3:3-8**

### 1

How long has it been since you created a resume? I had to update mine only a few years ago. You have to sell yourself and your skills, listing everything you've done and accomplished that would make you right for the job. You list degrees you've earned, previous employment you've had, awards you've won. You, you, you. Or me, me, me. That works when we're looking for a job, but not so much when we're presenting ourselves to God. Paul lists only a small number of sins in his letter to Titus, and the only answer we have to the question, "What have you earned?" is: eternal damnation. But the kindness of God saved us, not because of what we've done but because of who He is. He saved us, and then He gave us a "job": do good deeds (vs. 8). And because of who He is, and because of His righteousness, we can.

## DAY **ROMANS 6:20-23**

### 2

It's safe to say we've all done something we later regretted. Sometimes that regret holds us in a grip so tight that we can't move forward but rather swirl in a drain of sin, guilt, and shame. Romans 6:1-19 tells us to turn away from our sin, but vs. 20 acknowledges that sin is an addiction that makes us slaves. We sin and feel guilty; our shame convinces us we are worthless and can do no better, and so we sin again, and the swirl around the drain continues. But as believers who have been saved by the death and resurrection of Christ, we are free because of Christ's righteousness. We have the power of God in us to turn from sin – the same power that created the world, the same power that raised Christ from the dead, lives in us! We have been given eternal life and the strength to live this life for God. We don't have to circle the drain anymore.

## DAY **PSALM 32:1-11**

### 3

Mark Twain once said, "Always tell the truth; it's easier to remember." He was acknowledging the truth that the Bible stated more than two thousand years ago. When we sin – whether that falls into the category of lies, idolatry, or adultery – our bodies and minds feel stress along with the guilt and shame. On-going, unrepentant sin will affect our strength, health, and mental well-being. Psalm 32 promises, though, that we will be restored when we confess our sin. God is our hiding place. He surrounds us with lovingkindness. He is the reason we rejoice. Truth is truth, whether two thousand years ago, two hundred years ago, or today: we are sinners in need of forgiveness, and God is gracious to forgive us.

## DAY PHILIPPIANS 3:1-9

4

When I read Paul's list of rule-keeping behavior, I shake my head. If rule-keeping was an Olympic sport, Paul and I would be battling for the gold. How about you? Do you rely on rule-keeping to find favor with God and man? The problem with this kind of Olympic sport is that the reward itself is heavy. Not only do we feel the weight of our own performance, but our judgmental side then carries the weight of everyone else's flaws. But it doesn't have to be that way! God's love is not based on our performance. In fact, as Paul said, every good thing we've accomplished is rubbish. Christ is better than all of that. When we embrace God's gift of grace, even the flaws of others weigh on us less and we find we can be more gracious. Let's make graciousness our new Olympic sport!

## DAY GALATIANS 2:19-21

5

What is the most valuable thing you possess? Your home, car, or heirloom jewelry may have monetary value, and the value of your education is less tangible. How much is your life worth? It seems like a cheesy question, but it's one that God has already answered. Your life is worth the life of His Son. Jesus died on a cross to save us, to redeem our lives, to buy us back. A redeemed coupon may be worth a few cents, but your life is worth so much more! Paul tells us in Galatians that, because our lives have been redeemed, we no longer live for ourselves; we live for Christ. We no longer live only for what we can gain, the rungs we can climb, and the power we can wield. We live to love God and share God's gospel. How will you spend your most valuable possession?

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