

Dear Friends and Family,

Sci-fi may not be your favorite genre.

And maybe you have never even seen this epic movie from 1977.

But what started with one small film eventually became one of the most influential multi-movie adventures of all time.

It has impacted every aspect of movie making: story-telling, visual effects, costume and set design, original music, and cinematography.

The journey of the entire scope of the franchise came to a conclusion just this past year, after 42 years.

Star Wars.

Did you know that the original Star Wars was nominated for Best Picture at the 1978 Oscars, but lost to **Annie Hall**.

Seriously, who's ever even seen **Annie Hall**?

In the original 1977 movie, Sir Alec Guinness played the wise old sage Obi-Wan Kenobi. His role was to lead, guide, and train the young, would-be hero of the entire movie franchise.

In one scene, a skeptical Harrison Ford, calls Sir Alec an “old fool”.

His response: “Who’s the more foolish, the fool or the fool who follows him?”

“For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us.”

Titus 3:3-5

Pastor’s Point of View

The big question: **Do you see your unbelieving friends as fools or followers?**

Day 1 - READ Titus 3:1-3

1. Why is it important for Christians to be subject to our rulers? READ Matt. 22:15-22 and 1 Peter 2:13-15.
2. What is the purpose of Paul outlining all of the behaviors we should **have** in verses 1-2 as opposed to our **former self** in verse 3?
3. Don’t forget where you came from. Don’t forget your former sinful state. Don’t forget that God saved you and He can save anyone. Read 2 Peter 3:9.
4. Living with this in mind should shape how we view others and ourselves. What is this view?

Day 2 - READ Titus 3:4-7

1. On what basis is salvation merited to us?
2. Specifically, on what basis is salvation NOT earned by us?
3. Two terms are used here in verse, “regeneration” and “renewing”. Charles Ryrie wrote this concerning the Holy Spirit and this process.

“The convicting work of the Holy Spirit is the placing of the truth of the gospel in a clear light before the unsaved person so he acknowledges it as truth whether or not he receives Christ as personal Saviour. Conviction is making the message clear, not the saving of the soul - that’s regeneration. In other words, the one who testifies about the saving grace of God must depend on the Spirit even to make the testimony understood clearly.”

4. READ Rom. 10:13-14. It’s absolutely essential to see that God is completely responsible for salvation. We are responsible for participating in that process through our obedient good works. We preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit makes the message clearly understood to the person, so that they may believe. The person then responds by calling on the name of the Lord, becoming regenerate, and beginning the process of sanctification or ‘renewal’ by the Spirit.

Day 3 - READ Titus 3:8-11

1. The trustworthy statement Paul is referring to is actually backward looking here. He is saying, what he just said was trustworthy, and it should produce some action. How do we know this?
2. Look back at verse 7, and study the word “justified”. Different English translations will represent this differently, some translate it as ‘being justified’ and others ‘having been justified’. However, the original Greek is just one word *dikaiōthentes*. This word is an Aorist Verb, which means it took place completely in the past.
3. Paul writes that it is trustworthy that we can know we are completely justified (past tense), based on what he just stated in verses 4-8. Therefore, this knowledge should produce in believers the good works that go along with our faith (James 2:14-17).
4. Take the time to list out the things we are commanded to avoid and reject.
5. How can you go about doing that in your life this week?

Day 4 - READ Titus 3:12-15

1. There are three categories of works found in verse 14. Take a look at each one and write out some ways you can begin or continue living your Christian faith according to these categories.
 - a. Good deeds:
 - b. Meet pressing needs:

c. Fruitfulness:

*For the word of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,*

“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,

AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,** and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Those who are lost in sin are foolish, yes. But they are foolish because they are following after a lie. We have been renewed by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of good works, to spread the gospel to a lost and dying world! We know the truth and follow the Giver of all wisdom. May you share that truth with someone this week!

Grace be with you all!
Pastor Matt

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*