

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Acts 2.

Titus 3:3-6 "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. . ." (ESV)

Recently, I was talking to Big Rick. If you know Rick, then you know he is a pretty big guy, standing at 6 feet 8 inches. He can be rather intimidating just because of his size, and then, as a security guard, he knows how to carry himself.

Anyway, Rick mentioned that he went back to a place where he hasn't been in 8 years. For years, the race had been canceled that he used to patrol but just reopened. After arriving, some of the people who knew him said in a sarcastic manner, "Well, if it isn't Sasquach." To which Rick replied, "Not any more. My life is changed now that I am walking with the Lord, Jesus Christ."

Every believer has a past. In many cases, our past includes things we are not proud of. We served self. We worshiped idols. We lived to satisfy our own passions. And people knew us when we were living a life that honored ourselves and not God. But then, God, in His great mercy, showered us with love and forgiveness. And by His grace, He washed us clean and changed our old desires into new ones. Desires that put God first and not self. Passions for more of God and less of this world. We have embrace love and not hate, contentment over envy, and meekness instead of malice.

The best part about those who knew the old Rick now got to meet the new Rick. The one that has been touched by the Holy Spirit and is being guided into a new way of living for Jesus.

We all have a past, but we don't have to be chained to the old life.

